

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 203736

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USDEL SECRETARY ATHENS
NICOSIA FROM ANKARA DTG 270745Z AUG 75 RPTD TO YOU QUOTE:
S E C R E T ANKARA 6620

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER REGARDING
CYPRUS

REF: STATE 201503 (TOSEC 100092)

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AFTERNOON AUGUST 26 AND
PRESENTED POINTS IN REFTEL REGARDING CYPRUS AND THE EMBARGO
ISSUE.

2. CAGLAYANGIL'S RESPONSE WAS LENGTHY AND BITTER. HE
INITIALLY TOOK THE POSITION THAT "THE EMBARGO IS THE MORTGAGE
ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND UNLESS THE MORTGAGE IS LIFTED
WE CANNOT MOVE." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE APPRECIATED
THE EFFORTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY TO LIFT THE
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EMBARGO. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT WHILE
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE MUCH THE SAME VIEW OF THE EMBARGO
PROBLEM, THE TURKISH PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE IS NOT AS SOFT AS THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. HE HAD BEEN OUT CAMPAIGNING

FOR REELECTION TO HIS SENATE SEAT FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS AND HE TOLD OF ENCOUNTERING A FARMER IN HIS DISTRICT WHO HAD COMPLAINED: "WHEN YOU FIRST BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1965, THERE WAS AN ILLEGAL 15,000-MAN GREEK ARMY IN CYPRUS CARRYING AMERICAN ARMS, AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE REFUGEES. THE AMERICANS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN CYPRUS THEN. NOW, WITH THE SITUATION REVERSED, THE AMERICANS HAVE IMPOSED AN EMBARGO." HE THEN SPOKE OF AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AS SOMETHING WHICH HE HAD PERSONALLY NOURISHED AND CHERISHED SINCE ITS INFANCY. THAT BABY, WITH THE HELP OF ITS TURKISH AND US PARENTS HAD GROWN TO MANHOOD. NOW THAT ONCE HEALTHY CHILD, HOWEVER, WAS ON ITS DEATHBED. NEXT CAGLAYANGIL REVIEWED OUR PAST REQUESTS FOR TURKISH EFFORTS TO BRING PROGRESS IN CYPRUS, AND WHILE (HE ASSERTED) TURKEY HAD DONE ITS BEST TO COMPLY, THE EMBARGO STILL PREVAILED.

3. I ASSURED THE FONMIN THAT ALTHOUGH WE REGRETTED THE GOT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MORE PROGRESS IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION, THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WERE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER, AND THEIR PREDECESSORS, HAD TRIED TO DO TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING OUR CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. PICKING UP HIS ALLUSION TO THE DYING US-TURK FRIENDSHIP, I SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE SO MUCH EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT AND ATTENTION BY BOTH ITS AMERICAN AND TURKISH PARENTS HAD BEEN LAVISHED UPON IT THAT THERE WAS NOW A REAL CHANCE OF THE VOTE NEXT MONTH SETTING IT BACK ON THE ROAD TO HEALTH. I STRESSED THAT THE OUTCOME WAS PRESENTLY SO CLOSE IN THE HOUSE THAT WHATEVER ADDED EFFORT COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN THESE CRITICAL DAYS MIGHT PROVE TO BE JUST WHAT WAS NEEDED TO PUT US OVER THE TOP. THAT WAS WHY YOU WERE SO ANXIOUS (A) TO SEE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE NEW YORK DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS AND (B) TO HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL GOT COMMENTS WHICH WE COULD USE PRIVATELY WITH SELECTED MEMBERS REGARDING THE POSITIVE EFFECT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO COULD HAVE ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.

4.CAGLAYANGIL RESPONDED,WITH SOME BITTERNESS, THAT THE GOT
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HAD SAID ALL THAT IT COULD SAY ON THIS LATTER SUBJECT. "WHAT YOU SHOULD TELL THE CONGRESSMEN," HE EMPHASIZED, "IS THAT AS LONG AS THE EMBARGO REMAINS, THERE WILL BE NO (REPEAT NO) SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT TOWARDS A GENUINE CYPRUS SOLUTION." I ASKED IF HE COULD NOT SAY SOMETHING TO ME WITH RESPECT TO THE REVERSE SIDE OF THAT COIN, NAMELY, WHAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IF THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. I RECALLED WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID TO THE PRESIDENT AT BRUSSELS ABOUT HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A STRONG EFFORT FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION IF THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED, AND I SPOKE OF HOW EFFECTIVELY THE PRESIDENT HAD LATER USED THIS ASSURANCE IN HIS PRIVATE DEALINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN.

5. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BACK AND FORTH AND FURTHER REFLECTIONS BY CAGLAYANGIL, HE AUTHORIZED ME TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO YOUR TWO MAIN POINTS. WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS IN NEW YORK, HE SAID, "WE HAVE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THEM. WE HOPE THAT POSITIVE RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED." ON YOUR SECOND POINT, I.E., WHAT MIGHT BE SAID PRIVATELY TO CONGRESSMEN, HE INDICATED THAT YOU COULD SAY, "WITH RESPECT TO A CYPRUS SOLUTION, THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL INCREASE THE GOT'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER AND WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT." AS IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS AS FAR AS HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ON BOTH THESE SUBJECTS I THEN RETURNED OUR DISCUSSION TO OTHER SUBJECTS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

6. EKREM GUVENDIREN, MFA GREEK-CYPRUS EXPERT, WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING OUR MEETING. AFTER ITS CONCLUSION, GUVENDIREN SPOKE TO ME AS I WAS LEAVING THE BUILDING. HE SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT WHILE THE FONMIN'S COMMENTS HAD BEEN GUARDED CONCERNING THE UPCOMING DENKTASH-CLERIDES MEETING, MFA OFFICIALS WERE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THE POSITIVE EFFECT PROGRESS THERE WOULD HAVE ON THE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE DOING THEIR BEST UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. AT THE SAME TIME, AND AGAIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING VOTE, HE SPOKE OF MFA CONCERN OVER GREEKS' EARLY SEPTEMBER MANEUVERS TO CARRY ON ANTI-TURKISH PROPAGANDA AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

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